

## Chapter 15 Darwin's Theory of Evolution

### Section 15-1 The Puzzle of Life's Diversity (pages 369-372)

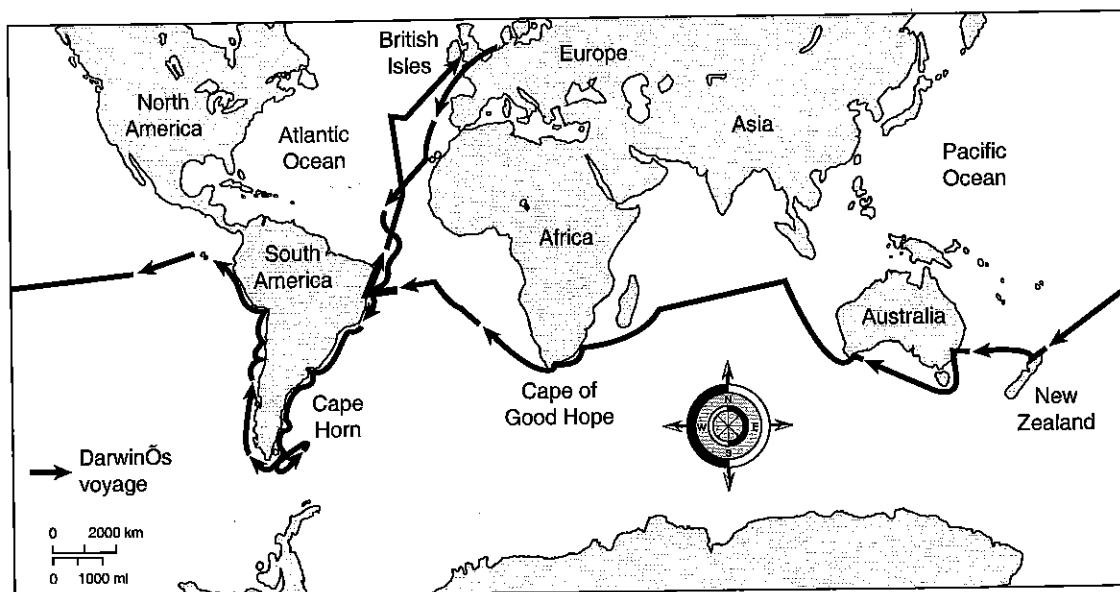
*This section outlines Charles Darwin's contribution to science. It also describes the pattern of diversity he observed among organisms of the Galápagos Islands.*

#### Introduction (page 369)

1. The process by which modern organisms have descended from ancient organisms is called \_\_\_\_\_.
2. A well-supported explanation of phenomena that have occurred in the natural world is a(an) \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Is the following sentence true or false? Charles Darwin contributed more to our understanding of evolution than anyone else. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Voyage of the *Beagle* (pages 369-370)

4. Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about Charles Darwin.
  - a. He was born in 1809.
  - b. He was an English naturalist.
  - c. He was 42 when he began the voyage on the *Beagle*.
  - d. The voyage lasted 5 years and took him around the world.
5. Label the Galápagos Islands on the map below.



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6. Is the following sentence true or false? Darwin was looking for a scientific explanation for the diversity of life on Earth. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **Darwin's Observations** (pages 370–372)

7. Circle the letter of each observation that Darwin made.
- a. An enormous number of species inhabit Earth.
  - b. Many organisms seem to be poorly suited to their environment.
  - c. The same sorts of animals are always found in the same ecosystems in different parts of the world.
  - d. Some species that lived in the past no longer live on Earth.
8. The preserved remains of ancient organisms are called \_\_\_\_\_.
9. As Darwin studied fossils, what new questions arose? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Is the following sentence true or false? Of all the *Beagle's* ports of call, the one that influenced Darwin the most was the Galápagos Islands. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Circle the letter of each choice that is true about the Galápagos Islands.
- a. The islands are far apart.
  - b. The smallest, lowest islands are hot and wet.
  - c. The higher islands have more rainfall.
  - d. All the islands have the same amount of vegetation.
12. How did Darwin explain differences in shell shape of tortoises from Hood Island and Isabela Island? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. Darwin observed that small brown birds on the Galápagos Islands differed in the shape of their \_\_\_\_\_.

### **The Journey Home** (page 372)

14. What did Darwin think about on his journey home to England? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Chapter 15, Darwin's Theory of Evolution *(continued)*

15. After he returned to England, what hypothesis did Darwin develop to explain his findings? \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Reading Skill Practice**

You can focus on the most important points in a section by turning the headings into questions and then trying to find the answers as you read. For each heading in Section 15-1, first write the heading as a how, what, or why question. Then, find and write the answer to your question. Do your work on a separate sheet of paper.